

Appl. No. 09/648,405
Amendment Dated March 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 31, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated December 31, 2003, claims 10, 11, 13-18, 20-25 and 27-29 of the pending application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,516 to Webster, Jr.

Claim 10:

In the Office Action, Claim 10 of the pending application was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,516 to Webster, Jr. With respect to Claim 10, the Examiner asserted the following:

Referring to claim 10, Webster discloses a computer drive securing system comprising: a chassis (11), the chassis having at least one pin hole (not numbered) and at least one clip mounting feature (see col. 2, lines 18-20); and a securing clip (37) having at least one securing pin (39) and at least one flexible tab (see 2, lines 17-18) for engaging the pin hole and the clip mounting feature of the chassis, respectively, the securing pin projecting through the pin hole and engageable with a computer drive (13) supported on the chassis (11) for securing the computer drive to the chassis. See FIG. 1 and the corresponding specification.

Claims 11, 18 and 25:

In the Office Action, Claims 11, 18 and 25 of the pending application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,516 to Webster, Jr. With respect to Claims 11, 18 and 25, the Examiner asserted the following:

Referring to claims 11, 18 and 25, Webster discloses the invention as claimed, including the at least one clip mounting feature formed as a part of the chassis. See FIG. 1 and col. 2, lines 18-20.

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Claim 13, 20 and 27

In the Office Action, Claims 13, 20 and 27 of the pending application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,516 to Webster, Jr. With respect to Claims 13, 20 and 27, the Examiner asserted the following:

Referring to claims 13, 20 and 27, Webster discloses the invention as claimed, wherein the at least one securing pin (39) is of sufficient size to be projected through the pin holes of the chassis and into at least one screw hole of the computer drive. See FIG. 3.

Claims 14, 21 and 24:

In the Office Action, Claims 14, 21 and 24 of the pending application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,516 to Webster, Jr. With respect to Claims 14, 21 and 24, the Examiner asserted the following:

Referring to claims 14, 21 and 24, Webster discloses the invention as claimed, wherein the at least one securing pin (39) is formed integral to the securing clip (37). See FIG. 1 and col. 2, lines 28-29.

Claims 15, 22 and 28:

In the Office Action, Claims 15, 22 and 28 of the pending application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,516 to Webster, Jr. With respect to Claims 15, 22 and 28, the Examiner asserted the following:

Referring to claims 15, 22 and 28, Webster discloses the invention as claimed, wherein the flexible tabs (not numbered) are formed integral with the securing clip (see FIG. 1).

Claims 16, 23 and 29:

In the Office Action, Claims 16, 23 and 29 of the pending application was rejected under

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35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,516 to Webster, Jr. With respect to Claims 16, 23 and 29, the Examiner asserted the following:

Referring to claims 16, 23 and 29, Webster discloses the invention as claimed, wherein the at least one flexible tab is configured to be deflected by and engaged with the clip mounting feature of the chassis. See Co. 2, lines 14-20.

Claim 17:

In the Office Action, Claim 17 of the pending application was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,516 to Webster, Jr. With respect to Claim 17, the Examiner asserted the following:

Referring to claim 17, Webster discloses a method of securing a computer drive (13) to a chassis (11) according to the system described in claim 10. See column 2, lines 30-57.

RESPONSE:

Title 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), cited by the Examiner in support of the above rejections, provides as follows:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351 (a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Figure 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,227,516 to Webster, Jr. appears in that patent as follows:



Tray 11 also comprises a plurality of latching mechanisms 31 for securing drive 13 within its interior walls. Latching mechanisms 31 are permanently mounted in side walls 17. In the embodiment shown, tray 11 has a total of four latching mechanisms 31 (two in each side wall 17). Each lateral pair of latching mechanisms 31 is mounted within an elongated groove or channel 33 in side walls 17 (best shown in FIG. 3). The individual latching mechanisms 31 are spaced apart from one another near the corners of tray 11 and each comprises two captive components: a slide 35 and a fastener 37. In the preferred embodiment, slides 35 are flat, rectangular pieces of plastic that have a limited range of

longitudinal movement within their respective channels 33. Fasteners 37 are substantially rectangular pieces of spring steel that are biased to an arcuate shape (FIG. 1). Fasteners 37 are cantilevered such that only their forward ends are rigidly mounted in channels 33. The rearward ends of fasteners 37 are movable between a biased or unlocked position (right side of FIG. 1) wherein they bend away from tray 11, and a locked position (left side of FIG. 1) wherein they are forced parallel to and flat against side walls 17. The positions of the individual fasteners 37 are independently selected by the position of their respective slides 35. Fasteners 37 are about twice as long as slides 35, but have approximately the same width. Each fastener 37 has an inward protruding, tapered mounting pin 39 centered near its rearward end.

Upon a review of the above in light of the scope of the original claims, Applicant respectfully submits that original claims 10-29 were not anticipated by the Webster, Jr. reference. Nevertheless, solely in order to expedite allowance of the pending claims, Applicants have, in response to the Examiner's suggestion, amended claims 10, 18 and 24 in order to more clearly distinguish between particular and specific embodiments of the present invention and the subject matter of the Webster, Jr. reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 10, 18 and 24 do not add new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested. Applicants further respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments place all pending claims in condition for allowance.

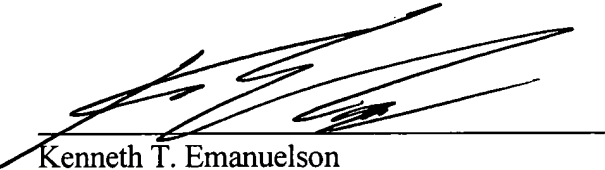
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by canceling claims, amending claims and/or pointing out herein how the claims now presented distinguish patentably over the cited art. An early Notice of Allowance of claims 10-29 is, therefore, respectfully solicited. Applicant submits that no fees not enclosed herewith are due with this reply. If this is incorrect, the Examiner is authorized to charge any fees due to Gardere Wynne Sewell deposit account no. 07-0153.

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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Emanuelson', is written over a horizontal line.

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